

Progressive archiving: theoretical and practical implications for documentary linguistics



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ARCADIA

Progressive archiving

- encouraging and enabling:
 - incremental archiving
 - additions to existing deposits
 - updates, revisions of existing resources

“Dead scholar” archiving

- deposit collection as finalised
- influenced by traditional archives, focus on legacy materials
- archives as “end point” of documentation

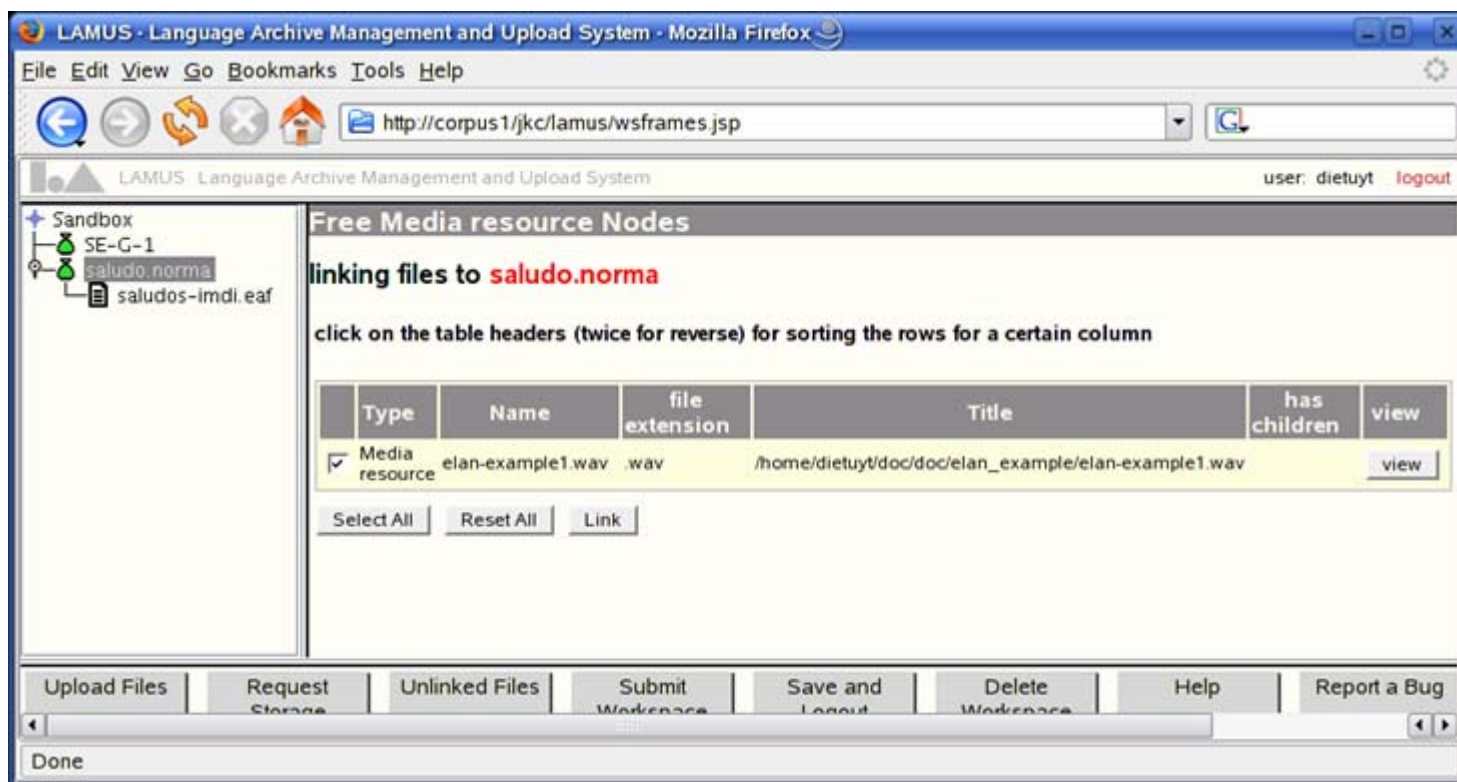


How *documentation* was meant to be:

- (Himmelman 1998)
 - comprehensive record, for use by variety of disciplines
 - the collection and *presentation* of primary data receive the theoretical and practical attention they deserve
 - hardly any comprehensive collections of primary data have been *published*
- (Woodbury 2011)
 - ongoing, opportunistic

Has this happened?

- DoBeS' LAMUS



The archive's "voice"

- Jacques Derrida "Mal d'archive" ("Archive fever")
"the archive ... is not only the place for stocking and for conserving ... content ... No, the technical structure of the archiving archive also determines ... its relationship to the future. *The archivization process produces as much as it records the event.*" (Derrida p.17)
- "the structure of the archive determines what can be archived ... *history and memory are shaped by what [Derrida] calls 'archivization'*" (Marlene Manoff, p. 12)

Whose voice?

- archive 'adds value' to collections
- choices of interface, functions and navigation are not neutral
- such design choices should be a matter of research, experiment, and testing – as well as transparent

ELAR

Pingjiang traditional love : x

← → ↺

elar.soas.ac.uk/deposit/zhang2010pingjiang

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Pingjiang traditional love songs

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Access protocol

U R C S (77)

Language

Chinese (69)
 Pingjiang (70)

Type

Audio (69)
 Image (6)
 Spreadsheet (1)
 Text (1)

Tags

Metadata (1)

Genre

Love song (69)
 Song lyrics (1)
 Song (69)

Participants


Chen Cuihua (54)
 Li Shuguang (1)
 Mao Chuan (8)
 Wang Xunfu (1)
 Zhan Miaochun (1)

Pingjiang traditional love songs

Language: Pingjiang

Depositor: Shenkai Zhang

Location: China



Group represented

Pingjiang (Han Chinese)

Language information

Pingjiang dialect is spoken in Pingjiang County, in the northeast of Hunan province and borders with Hubei and Jiangxi provinces. See also "Other information". 平江方言是湖南省平江县内的方言。平江位于湖南东北部、是湖南、湖北、江西的三省交界之处。

Deposit contents

The Pingjiang Traditional Love Songs Archiving Project includes audio recordings and an annotated Toolbox text. The Toolbox (text) file contains transcriptions for all of the audio files. The metadata for each audio file includes a reference to a specific id in the Toolbox file.


平江传统灯戏调保存项目包括录音文件和一个Toolbox 文本文件。Toolbox 文本文件包含所有录音文件的歌词。每个录音文件的metadata有一个对应号码，跟Toolbox 文本文件的号码相对应

Your access

Your roles: U R C S

Depositor

Shenkai Zhang




Nationality: Chinese
 Affiliation: ILCAA

Tools

[Download metadata](#)

Map Terrain



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ELAR Pingjiang traditional love Settings Documentation of Kubokota

elar.soas.ac.uk/deposit/chambers2009kubokota

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Documentation of Kubokota

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Access protocol

U R C S (155)
U R C S (3)

Language

Kubokota (148)
Luqa (10)

Type

Audio (151)
Document (4)
ELAN (98)
Image (11)
Text (93)

Genre [more](#)

Custom description (13)
Custom narrative (16)
Custom story (1)
Directional story (4)
Elicitation (17)
[more ...](#)

Topic [more](#)

Abandonment (1)
Adultery (1)
Artefacts (1)

Access protocol

U R C S (155)
U R C S (3)

Group represented
Kubokota, Ranongga Island, Solomon Islands

Language information
Kubokota (also known as Ganoqa or Ghanongga); Luqa (Lungga)

Deposit contents
The deposit comprises over 150 audio files, as well as written texts, elicitation materials and participant observation notes.
Genres include traditional narratives, procedural and route descriptions, personal stories and accounts of everyday events in which the researcher participated. Elicited materials include responses to the caused positions and

spoken on Ranongga Island, Solomon Islands, resulting from fieldwork conducted between September 2006 and June 2007.

[Map](#) [Terrain](#)

ELAR Pingjiang traditional love Settings Documentation of Kubokota

elar.soas.ac.uk/deposit/chambers2009kubokota#q=%3Ffilters%3Dtype%253Abundle%2520im_og_gid%253A16359%2520sm_ε

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Documentation of Kubokota

Home Resources Comments

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Search this deposit

[Search](#)

[Reset keywords](#)

Access protocol

U R C S x
U R C S

Language

Kubokota (3)
Luqa

Type

Audio (2)
ELAN (2)
Text (1)
Document
Image

Genre [more](#)

Custom description (1)
Custom narrative (1)
Custom story
Directional story
Elicitation
[more...](#)

Topic [more](#)

Origin (1)
Ragomo (1)
Spirit (1)

Found 3 bundles in this deposit with keyword **U R C S x** (page 1 of 1)

► **Obobulu people's origins**
Custom narrative
Recorded on 23/11/2006
Where the people of Obobulu came from

Keywords: Kubokota - Custom narrative

▼ **Spirit**

a015IL.eaf

This file is not available to all users. In order to be considered for access, you must apply to the depositor for access rights. You will receive an email that even if your request is approved, you still may not be allowed to view this particular file. [Apply for access](#)

a015IL.txt

ID: a015IL
Title: Spirit
Alternative title: Ragomo
Date created: 12/11/2006
Location: Obobulu
Description: Ilikera's e... including objects a... is not go... inside the ragomo under the washing lines where women's

Your access

Your roles: U R C S

Depositor

Mary Chambers

Map Terrain

Progressive archiving - implementation

- needs
 - high involvement of depositors
 - software to manage complexity
- operations
 - add (new item/resource)
 - revise (existing item/resource) –
 - keep revision history
 - delete
 - substitute (= delete and add)

Complicating issues

- operations and item types (e.g. media files may not be revised)
- granularity
- rights - increase of access management combinations
- new mechanisms, interface
 - for progressive operations
 - for display and navigation
- role of curation is now shared between archive and depositor – how to represent the various contributions?

Implementation issues

- need strong underlying identification system (PID – persistent identifiers)
- tension between
 - digital preservation principles (every ‘object’ is identified)
 - library/bibliographic principles (‘works’ are identified)

Metadocumentation

- it is important to document the relationship between tranches and versions of resources
- metadocumentation
 - documentation of the conditions (linguistic, social, physical, emotional, technical, historical, biographical) under which resources were produced
 - contextualisations, attitudes, relationships, histories, goals, methods, conventions

Non-depositor contributions

- many different stakeholders in languages
- ‘languages are inseparable from culture’
- broaden the collection content
- effective documentation supports revitalization, by providing repurposable resources
 - outcomes should be systematically archived
 - usages should be documented and archived
 - example – Breath of Life (Colleen Fitzgerald)

Non-depositor contributions - benefits

- provide for community members to contribute and to make assertions about resources and languages
- provide richer and more rounded record
- encourage involvement with languages
- helps funders – they can show impact from:
 - funded project outcomes archived earlier
 - additional and ongoing accrual of resources

Non-depositor contributions - implications

- depend on 'social networking' platform
- depend on careful rights management
- permutations and combination explode – need careful research and design of compact but effective system
- what happens to the archive's credibility and 'authority'

Implications for depositors – more effort

- value of additions/versions depends on well-structured resources in first instance
- archive needs metadata early to enable
 - discovery
 - infrastructure for linking additions, revisions ...
- metadocumentation highlighted
- moderating contributions (where they allow)

Implications for depositors – less stress

- archiving documentation need not be a “big bang” – less intimidating
- comprehensiveness achieved through sum over time, through a variety of activities and contributions



Archivism?

- progressive archiving is part of an evolved, holistic documentary linguistics, not another example of 'archivism'



Conclusions

- flavor of archives changes from **finality** and **completeness** to **open** and **evolutionary**
- questions for archives about what a “deposit” or “depositor” really is
- archives recast as providers of services within a revised, ‘holistic’ documentation

Thank you



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